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mate facilitates the labor of harvest. The wheat and grain are threshed on their native field, bagged, and piled up against the fences till a convenient time for carrying them to market; and I often saw such huge piles of bagged wheat and oats, that it required some stretch of fancy to imagine that it could all have grown in a single year within the area of the field.

NOTES ON SOME BIRDS IN THE MUSEUM OF VASSAR COLLEGE.

BY PROFESSOR JAMES ORTON.

THE Ornithological Cabinet in the Vassar Museum, contains nearly twelve hundred distinct species, of which seven hundred are North American, and the remainder South American. Among them are several type specimens and others of historical interest as the originals of Audubon's celebrated drawings.

Falco islandicus Gm. This fine specimen formerly belonged to Audubon, to whom it was presented by Sir John Cheperstal, and is the original of the figure in "Birds of America."

Accipiter nigroplumbeus Lawr. TYPE. This new hawk was obtained by the writer in the Valley of Quito, where it is very rare.

Strix punctatissima Gray. Indigenous to the Galapagos, but now rather abundant in the Valley of Quito near the cotton-mills of Chillo, where it is called "Factory Owl." It lays nearly spherical eggs, in a rude nest made of a small quantity of rubbish scraped together and lined with a few feathers, and generally built in the gable ends of houses or under the eaves.

Trogon Mexicanus Sw. The late Mr. Giraud informed us that this specimen was shot in Texas. The Trogon fam-

ily is well represented in the East Indies; but it is more fully developed in the New World where there are about twenty-five species. In splendor of plumage they are surpassed only by the Hummers; in stupidity, by the Jacamars. Their only utterance sounds like *Te vió!* (I see thee). They are zygodactylous, but unlike the woodpeckers and parrots, the third or longest toe being the inward of the two forward toes instead of the outward.

Andigena laminirostris Gould. This rare bird represents a remarkable group of Toucans characterized by the dense villose clothing of the under surface. This species is found at Nanegal on the west slope of the Andes; not in the neighborhood of Quito, as stated by Mr. Gould. The Toucans, of which thirty-five species occur at the equator, are confined to tropical America. They live in dense forests in small companies. Their flight is laborious but not jerky. On the ground they hop like a robin. They have a shrill though variable cry, which sometimes has a vague resemblance to *tocáno*, and again to *pia-po-o-co*. The imaginative natives call them Preachers, because they seem to make the sign of the cross by wagging the head up, then to the left, next to the right, and finally down, saying at each movement *Dios tode* (God gave it you). The sexes are exactly alike. The most common species on the Upper Amazon are *Cuvieri*, *Humboldtii* and *pleuricinctus*.

Tetragonops ramphastinus Jard. This singular Barbet is called by the natives *venenero* or deer-hunter, because it whistles with ventriloqual powers. None of the Capitonidæ sing. The phlegmatic Buccos or "pig-birds," as the Indians call them, seem to have their head-quarters in Eastern Peru. The Tetragonops is a connecting link between the Barbets and Toucans.

Lesbia Ortoni Lawr. TYPE. This remarkably fine species is the latest addition to the Trochilidæ. It was discovered in the Valley of Quito at the foot of the isolated mountain Ilalo, and is the only specimen ever found. The

superstitious Indians who inhabit Ilalo are very exclusive, forbidding the approach of any white man to their mountain; and for this reason, probably, this Hummer has never before been seen. The collection contains one hundred and twenty-six species of Trochilidæ.

Chætura rutila Vieill. This elegant little Swift or "Nocturnal Swallow" was obtained in the Quito Valley, where it is very rare. Vieillot's type was found in Trinidad; Lafresnaye's specimens were from New Grenada; and Salvin procured them in Guatemala, where Sclater says it properly belongs. Its nest is not made of mud and sticks like that of its northern representative, our chimney swallow, but chiefly of moss, very compact and shallow, and located in dark culverts about two feet above the water; never on houses or trees.

Brachygalba lugubris Sw. RE-DISCOVERED TYPE. Since this Jacamar was first described in 1838, not a single specimen has come under the notice of any naturalist; and in 1853, Mr. Sclater declared that Swainson's bird remained to be re-discovered. This specimen was shot by Mr. Gilbert at Valencia in 1867, and has been recognized by the distinguished ornithologist, George N. Lawrence, Esq., as the lost *lugubris*. The only discrepancy from Swainson's description is the possession of four toes instead of three; but the hind toe is quite small. It is distinct from *B. inornata*. Jacamars stand next to the Trogons and Hummers in the beauty of their golden-bronze, and steel-colored plumage. They are peculiar to tropical America, and Guiana is their true home. None have been seen on the west slope of the Andes.

Todirostrum gracilipes Sch. The type in the British Museum came from Bogota; but this specimen was obtained by Hauxwell on the Upper Amazon. From the same locality we have the *Empidonax varius*.

Myiarchus Lawrencii Gir., *Basileuterus Belli* Gir., *B. Brasieri* Gir., *Dendroica olivacea* Gir., and *Cardellina rubrifrons* Gir. The types of these species formerly belonged

to this cabinet, but are now in the Smithsonian Institution, and are replaced by other specimens collected by Sumichrast, Salvin and Verreaux. To the day of his death, Mr. Giraud contended that the types were collected within the State of Texas.

Myiozetetes inornatus Lawr. TYPE. From Valencia, Venezuela.

Turdus Hauxwelli Lawr. TYPE. From Pebas, Peru.

Dendroica tigrina Gm. This handsome specimen was shot by Wilson in the vicinity of Cape May, 1812, and was described by him as a new species. Gmelin, however, in 1788 had named it *Motacilla tigrina*.

Euphonia elegantissima Bp. Our specimens do not conform to Selater's description: the throat of the male is not "black," but bluish black like the back; the forehead is not "chestnut, margined behind with black," but is bright yellow.

E. nigricollis Vieill. This Tanager is one of the best songsters in the Valley of Quito; the other birds only twitter and chirp; like the people, too lazy to sing. The *Mimus lividus* is its rival in Brazil. The Tanagers generally have no melody of voice. They are restless, wary birds, having a rapid, abrupt flight, and seldom hopping on the ground. They are most numerous in New Granada, and the most important genus is *Calliste*. To the puzzling question, "What is a Tanager?" Selater answers, "a dentirostral Finch." At Quito the Finches build their nests in October.

Atticora fasciata Gm. This type of the genus is described by Baird as having ten tail feathers: both male and female in the Vassar collection show twelve. They are from the Maranon.

Pipra deliciosa Sel. One of the most brilliantly colored of the Manakins, the male being also remarkable for the singular structure of its wings, the secondaries being curved. By the natives it is called "Watchman," because it flies before certain blue birds, and makes a noise with its wings in case of danger.

Diglossa aterrima Lafr. The natives say that it changes its colors if taken to Pichincha, becoming like *D. Lafresnayi*.

Rupicola sanguinolenta Gould. This splendid "Cock of the Rock" is found only, we believe, on the western Andean slope. The *R. Peruviana* is confined to the eastern slope, and the *R. crocea* to the mountains of Guiana. It frequents shady ravines and is very shy. It "plays 'possum," falling apparently dead when shot at, but soon flies off. It makes a guttural noise not unlike the grunt of a hog. Like the Bird of Paradise, Peacock, Turkey, etc., the Cock of the Rock makes an extraordinary display of its finery just prior to the breeding season.

Chrysomitris Mexicana Bp. TYPE of *Fringilla Texensis* Gir.

Ocyalus latirostris Sw., *Clypicterus oseryi* and *Amblycercus solitarius*. These splendid specimens of Icteridæ were obtained on the Upper Amazon, where they appear to be rare.

Icterus Grace-annæ Cass. This seems to be the only specimen found since its description. The type is in the Philadelphia Academy. This fixes the locality (Machala near Guayaquil), which was not positively known.

Cephalopterus ornatus Vieill. This Umbrella Bird came from the Upper Amazon. It was formerly thought to be confined to the islands in the Rio Negro. It is found only on the eastern side of the Andes; the *C. penduliger* being restricted to the western slope, and *C. glabricollis* to Central America. The throat lappet of *penduliger* is nearly ten inches long; that of *ornatus* about four, and of *glabricollis* insignificant. According to Fraser, the appendage seems generally held in a bunch like a rose under the throat, and to fall after death.

Chlorænas vinacea and *Ortolida guttata*; from the Upper Amazon. Near Savonita on the west slope of the Andes is an *Ortolida* whose note sounds like *trabajá, trabajá* (work! work!), and the response of the answering bird is *manana, manana* (to-morrow), a parody on Spanish character.

Meleagris ocellata Temm. A pair, male and female, in fine plumage.

Lophortyx Gambelii Nutt. Of this bird, "whose rarity is only equalled by its beauty" says Gould, there is a pair in perfect condition.

Demiegretta Pealii Bp., *Garzetta candidissima* Gm., *Florida cæruba* Linn., and *Ibis alba* Linn. These specimens once belonged to Audubon, from which he made the drawings for his large work.

Platalea ajaja Linn. This specimen was obtained of Dr. Trudeau. It was shot on the plantation of his father near Charleston, S. C.

Aphriza virgata Gm. TYPE of Audubon's *A. Townsendi*, from the mouth of Columbia River; the only specimen obtained within the bounds of the United States. Properly belongs to the Pacific Islands. Professor Baird doubts its occurrence on the shores of the northern Pacific, but Dr. Sclater does not. Several have been found on Vancouver's Island.

Phalaropus Wilsonii Sab. A superb specimen in Bell's best style of mounting.

Anser Gambelii Hart. Original of Audubon's drawing.

Bernicla leucopsis Linn. Original of Audubon's drawing.

Somateria spectabilis Linn. Specimen shot on Long Island Sound!

Sterna Trudeauui Aud. TYPE. The original of Audubon's figure and description; shot at Great Egg Harbor. According to Mr. Giraud, the only specimen found in North America. It is in full plumage.

Colymbus arcticus and *C. septentrionalis* Linn. Originals of Audubon's drawings.

Podiceps occipitalis Less. This grebe was found by the writer on Lake Mica, which is on the side of Antisana, Ecuador, 13,300 feet above the Pacific. It appears to be identical with the species abounding on the coast of Chili and Straits of Magellan. It is difficult to conceive how this

purely aquatic bird could or would ascend and cross the western Cordillera, and then ascend to an icy, solitary lake on the shoulder of one of the loftiest volcanoes in the eastern range, 2,500 miles from its native place. Forbes found *Cyclas Chilensis* (formerly considered peculiar to the most southern and coldest part of Chili at the level of the sea) abundant in fresh-water ponds in the Bolivian plateau near La Paz, 14,000 feet high. Do not these facts point to changes in the Andes on a grand scale, and at a rate which, measured by the time required for a change of species, must be termed rapid?

Alca impennis Linn. Original of Audubon's figure. A notice of this specimen was published in the *American Naturalist*, 1869.

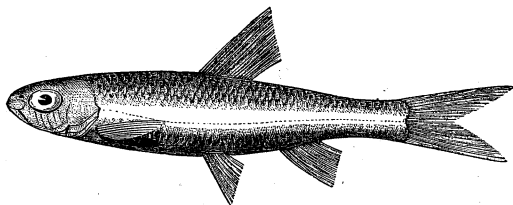
Mormon cirrhata Pall. Original of Audubon's figure.

Phaleris cristatella Pall. Original of Audubon's figure.

FURTHER NOTES ON NEW JERSEY FISHES.

BY CHARLES C. ABBOTT, M.D.

Fig. 163.



Hybognathus.

DURING the month of February of the present year (1870), Professor George H. Cook, State Geologist, sent to the author of this paper a number of "frost-fish," or "smelt" (*Osmerus mordax*), and among them was the single specimen figured above. On submitting this cyprinoid to Pro-